

Minutes- Regular Meeting 7-9-12

Mayor Spratt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Spratt then suspended the meeting for a brief Executive Session with Council and Town Attorney Vinson in her office.

The Mayor, Council and Town's Attorney returned and had the Pledge of Allegiance before Town business was conducted.

The Town Attorney wants to explain why there is no prayer for tonight, and reads a letter from ACLU. He then responds to the letter.

Roll call was done. In attendance were Council Members; P. Durham, M. Nordstrom, G. Henry, C. Adams, C. Cephas, Town Attorney, H. Vinson and Mayor, J. Spratt.

Mayor's Report

The water was off for about an hour and Code Enforcement, John Avery got right on it, he will report on this in a moment. I appreciate everyone's help during this hot time. Rick Price will not be able to attend so he has given me his report to share with everyone.

Upon motion made by Councilman Nordstrom, and seconded by Council Member Adams. The Council voted to approve the two agenda requests and the Agenda.

Planning & Zoning (John Avery)

The Town received the annual drinking water report, and the report was very good. All parameters that were tested for came back negative. The other weekend the water tank ran very low due to a faulty control board. The control panel was indicating a normal level in the tank when in fact the level was critically low. John W. Tieder has been contacted and repairs are scheduled.

In the past it had been reported that there were 19 fire hydrants that were inoperable and needed to be replaced but that is not true, only 3 are inoperative and are scheduled to be replaced. Three fire hydrants have been ordered and will be replaced after they arrive. The safety of the Town is not jeopardized by this.

We had a request from Mom and Pop's Restaurant where they have applied for a Beer and Wine License and want to sell Beer and Wine as a part of their meals. The Town ordinances do not define alcohol sales as part of a restaurant so the question will go to the Council to qualify if alcohol sales is part of the definition of a restaurant. He further goes on with the information he has on the topic. The Restaurant owners are here if you have any questions. Mayor Spratt requested that after the meeting there be a workshop meeting to discuss this in further detail.

Jerry Rhue of HVFD gave his report for Fire Company and added that nothing new is going on activity-wise. The Mayor asked if the HVFD participate in the rescue attempt of the three little boys? Mayor Spratt wanted to applaud whoever was in on the search for the Three Boys in Federalsburg. Please keep those families in your prayers.

Old Business

Mayor Spratt states, "I am going to let Hugh (Town Attorney) talk about Charter changes.

Bike ordinance- is just a draft, due to certain members of our council having concerns with it.

Attorney Vinson goes on to say that the number of meetings will now change to one per month.

Someone in audience says "why?"

Mayor Spratt responded; "because it will cut down on cost and nothing usually goes on in the summer"

Attorney Vinson replied; "These changes will have to be published before they can go into effect."

Two agenda requests:

Pastor David Talley (Pastor of Grace Baptist) talked about wanting a moment of prayer back at the meetings and he expressed his viewpoints and the churches viewpoints on the matter of no prayer at the meetings. He encourages us to go back to our past practice on this.

Earl Murphy had listed his viewpoints on this as well.

Monroe Quales asked to state his rebuttal, the Mayor denied his request because he had not filled out an agenda request form and consequently was not on the agenda.

Mayor Spratt called for any New Business.

Council Member Durham has another charter change, a request which is in reference to a cut in the salaries of Council Members and Mr. Durham wants to know where we are on this. Parker Durham stated that he made the motion that since we've moved to one meeting a month to reduce the council salaries.

Council Member Durham asked if we are moving forward on the bicycle ordinance.

Town Attorney, Mr. Vinson, responded we are going to discuss that at the work session.

Council Member Nordstrom stated that he thought they were supposed to get back with Chief Hutton and Captain Henry.

Council Member Cephas stated that he would like to have a work session and discuss these three items.

Council Member Adams said, "We talked about who would run the meetings and I thought it was decided it would be the Council man at large?"

Mayor Spratt stated that that matter was never voted on so she just made a schedule.

Parker Durham responded that if we are having a work session we should just add this one to the topic.

Mayor Spratt agrees saying, "This works for me"

The Mayor called for any other new business

Cephas states that he wanted to make a statement in reference to his beliefs on the prayer issue.

Mayor Spratt stated that when she came into this office there was no prayer, so she thought about it and decided that it was important enough to have it added to the meetings. She goes on to say that she is going to give the letter from the Ministers and Citizens to Charles Cephas and let him handle this requesting information.

Being there was no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 13, 2012.

These minutes were compiled from the digital recording of the meeting by Bobby Joe Bell and Kerri Harper. The Clerk/Treasurer position was vacant at the time of the July 9th, 2012 meeting.